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Land Revenue.

Compensation to Mr. E. Madhava Menon for losses during Mappilla rebellion.

* 450 Q.—Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN: Will the hon. Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received a memorial from one E. Madhava Menon, once acting adhikari of Thachambara amsam in Walluvanad taluk, praying that he may be reinstated in his office and granted compensation for the destruction of his house by the rebels in the recent Mappilla outbreak; and

(b) whether the Government have passed any orders on his application; if so, whether they will be pleased to lay it on the table with the memorial and other connected papers?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) The Board of Revenue was requested in April last to consider and dispose of the case on its merits as the appeal made to the Board was dismissed on a technical ground. The Board accordingly arranged for a fresh enquiry, an opportunity being given to the memorialist to defend himself. This enquiry has been completed and on the evidence, the Board considered that the memorialist deserved the punishment of removal from service and has accordingly declined to interfere on his behalf. The Government do not propose to publish the papers.

As regards memorialist's claim for compensation, it was not admitted as it was not recommended by the District Magistrate on the ground, apparently that memorialist did not suffer the loss by reason of being the adhikari; but further enquiry has been made of the District Magistrate on this point.

Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN:—"May I know why this adhikari was dismissed from service?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"I am afraid I do not remember."

Assignment of waste lands as darkhast in certain villages.

* 451 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to place before the House a statement showing the area of waste lands assigned as darkhast within the last ten years to adjoining or neighbouring pattadars apart from their kumki lands in the villages of Maral, Padavu, Derebail, Bolur, Padhakodi, Bangrakulur, Kavur, Panjimogar, Kunjathbail, Markada, Padushedde, Pachenadi, Kannur, Alape, excluding the area within the municipality of Mangalore and state—

(a) for what purposes these assignments were made;

(b) what portion of this area has been cultivated in each of the villages;

(c) whether it is a fact that as a result of these assignments and reservation of lands to Adi-Dravidas and assignments to ex-service men there is scarcely any land left in these villages for grazing purposes;

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(*d*) what is this 'sivayi-jama' system prevailing in the South Kanara district and how far it has been tolerated or recognized by Government in the abovementioned villages;

(*e*) whether the cultivators have been encouraged to cultivate cheaper dry grains for their food like cholam, kambu, groundnuts and ragi in the waste lands assigned to pattadars and sivayi-jama lands in these villages; and

(*f*) whether there has been any correspondence in the Revenue or Agricultural departments locally in the district of South Kanara or with Government from local authorities or bodies on the subject; and

(*g*) with what result?

A.—(*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) The Government have no information but will enquire.

(*d*) The hon. Member possibly refers to 'hakkal' or temporary cultivation of dry land without patta (which corresponds to sivayi-jama on the East Coast). The orders on the Settlement did not prohibit the practice though they assimilated the charges made to those on other dry lands.

(*e*), (*f*) & (*g*) It is not understood to what the hon. Member refers. It is not the practice to interfere with pattadars as to what cultivation they should or should not make in their patta lands.

Area of assessed waste lands in certain villages in South Kanara.

452 *Q.*—Mr. J. A. Saldanha: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) what is the extent of the area of assessed waste lands in the villages mentioned in the last question (question No. 369) granted for house-sites to poorer classes in the villages within the last ten years;

(*b*) in how many of the plots in the abovementioned villages houses were erected; what facilities these cultivators had for digging wells within a small depth, say of 60 feet in those plots;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that in most of the plots granted in those villages no water could be struck within 60 feet;

(*d*) in view of the difficulties of the people getting water within a small depth whether it is a fact that a large number of grantees of these lands have not been able to erect houses; and

(*e*) further having regard to the poverty of most of these people, whether Government were justified in fixing so short a period as six months or twelve months within which they should build houses in the plots allotted?

A.—(*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) The Government have no information.

(*d*) No complaint has been made to Government. In other parts of the Presidency, a well in every backyard is not considered a necessity.

(*e*) The periods mentioned are the usual periods fixed in the rules for the grant of house-site in villages.